IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel without prejudice claims 1-20 and add new claim 21-54, as indicated in the complete listing of pending claims listed below.

1-20. (canceled)

21. (new) A method to boot a computer system, the method comprising:

selecting a hardware-specific boot routine designed to boot current hardware of the computer system in executing a generic operating system, the hardware-specific boot routine being initially stored in a read-write memory device such that when hardware of the computer system is changed an updated hardware-specific boot routine can be installed in the read-write memory device to boot the computer system; and

executing the hardware-specific boot routine to enable the generic operating system to boot the current hardware of the computer system.

22. (new) A method as in claim 21, wherein when executed the hardware-specific boot routine patches the generic operating system for compatibility with the current hardware of the computer system in executing the hardware-specific boot routine.

23. (new) A method as in claim 21, wherein the hardware-specific boot routine is contained in a system enabler file in the read-write memory device.

24. (new) A method as in claim 23, wherein said selecting the hardware-specific boot routine comprises:

selecting second at least one boot routine from first at least one boot routine, the second at least one boot routine being compatible with the current hardware of the computer system; and

selecting the hardware-specific boot routine from the second at least one boot routine based upon a set of defined selection criteria.

25. (new) A method as in claim 24, wherein said set of defined selection criteria includes at least one of:

a) a time-date stamp;

b) a current machine state of the computer system;

c) a preference file; and

d) a preferred initial operating state of the computer system.

26. (new) A method as in claim 24, wherein each of the first at least one boot routine is stored in a system enabler file.

27. (new) A method as in claim 24, further comprising:

searching the read-write memory device for the first at least one boot routine.

28. (new) A method to update a computer operating system to control a computer system, the method comprising:

installing an updated hardware-specific boot routine in a read-write memory device;

wherein, during a boot process of executing a generic operating system, the updated hardware-specific boot routine is automatically selected and executed to complete the boot process.

29. (new) A method as in claim 28, wherein the updated hardware-specific boot routine is installed for booting updated hardware of the computer system.

30. (new) A method as in claim 28, wherein said installing the updated hardware-specific boot routine comprises:

replacing an hardware-specific boot routine with the updated hardware-specific boot routine.

31. (new) A method as in claim 28, wherein said installing the updated hardware-specific boot routine comprises:

adding an updated enabler file into the read-write memory device to coexist with a different enabler file in the computer system, the updated enabler file containing the updated hardware-specific boot routine.

32. (new) A method as in claim 28, wherein the updated hardware comprises a CPU and peripherals; and wherein the updated hardware-specific boot routine is selected depending upon the CPU and the peripherals in the boot process.

33. (new) A method as in claim 28, wherein when executed the updated hardware-specific boot routine patches the generic operating system for compatibility with current hardware of the computer system.

34. (new) A machine readable medium containing executable computer program instructions which when executed by a computer system cause said system to perform a method to boot the computer system, the method comprising:

selecting a hardware-specific boot routine designed to boot current hardware of the computer system in executing a generic operating system, the hardware-specific boot routine being initially stored in a read-write memory device such that when hardware of the computer system is changed an updated hardware-specific boot routine can be installed in the read-write memory device to boot the computer system; and

executing the hardware-specific boot routine to enable the generic operating system to boot the current hardware of the computer system.

35. (new) A medium as in claim 34, wherein when executed the hardware-specific boot routine patches the generic operating system for compatibility with the current hardware of the computer system in executing the hardware-specific boot routine.

36. (new) A medium as in claim 34, wherein the hardware-specific boot routine is contained in a system enabler file in the read-write memory device.

37. (new) A medium as in claim 36, wherein said selecting the hardware-specific boot routine comprises:

selecting second at least one boot routine from first at least one boot routine, the second at least one boot routine being compatible with the current hardware of the computer system; and

selecting the hardware-specific boot routine from the second at least one boot routine based upon a set of defined selection criteria.

38. (new) A medium as in claim 37, wherein said set of defined selection criteria includes at least one of:

a) a time-date stamp;

b) a current machine state of the computer system;

c) a preference file; and

d) a preferred initial operating state of the computer system.

39. (new) A medium as in claim 37, wherein each of the first at least one boot routine is stored in a system enabler file.

40. (new) A medium as in claim 37, wherein the method further comprises:
searching the read-write memory device for the first at least one boot routine.

41. (new) A machine readable medium containing executable computer program instructions which when executed by a computer system cause said system to perform a method to update a computer operating system to control the computer system, the method comprising:
installing an updated hardware-specific boot routine in a read-write memory device;
wherein, during a boot process of executing a generic operating system, the updated hardware-specific boot routine is automatically selected and executed to complete the boot process.

42. (new) A medium as in claim 41, wherein the updated hardware-specific boot routine is installed for booting updated hardware of the computer system.

43. (new) A medium as in claim 41, wherein said installing the updated hardware-specific boot routine comprises:

replacing an hardware-specific boot routine with the updated hardware-specific boot routine.

44. (new) A medium as in claim 41, wherein said installing the updated hardware-specific boot routine comprises:

adding an updated enabler file into the read-write memory device, the updated enabler file containing the updated hardware-specific boot routine.

45. (new) A medium as in claim 41, wherein the updated hardware comprises a CPU and peripherals; and wherein the updated hardware-specific boot routine is selected depending upon the CPU and the peripherals in the boot process.

46. (new) A medium as in claim 41, wherein when executed the updated hardware-specific boot routine patches the generic operating system for compatibility with current hardware of the computer system.

47. (new) A computer system, comprising:

a processor; and

memory coupled to the processor, the memory comprising a read-write memory device, the memory storing a generic operating system, the read-write memory device storing first at least one boot routine, in a boot process the processor executing the generic operating system to select from the first at least one boot routine a hardware-specific boot routine designed to boot current hardware of the computer system, the hardware-specific boot routine being initially stored in the read-write memory device such that when hardware of the computer system is changed an updated hardware-specific boot routine can be installed in the read-write memory device to boot the computer system, the processor executing the hardware-specific boot routine to enable the generic operating system to boot the current hardware of the computer system.

48. (new) The computer system of claim 47, wherein the processor patches the generic operating system for compatibility with the current hardware of the computer system when executing the hardware-specific boot routine.

49. (new) The computer system of claim 47, wherein the hardware-specific boot routine is contained in a system enabler file in the read-write memory device.

50. (new) The computer system of claim 49, wherein the processor selects the hardware-specific boot routine from the first at least one boot routine based upon a set of defined selection criteria which includes at least one of:

a) a time-date stamp;

b) a current machine state of the computer system;

c) a preference file; and

d) a preferred initial operating state of the computer system.

51. (new) The computer system of claim 50, wherein each of the first at least one boot routine is stored in a system enabler file in the memory.

52. (new) The computer system of claim 50, wherein the processor searches the read-write memory device for the first at least one boot routine.

53. (new) The computer system of claim 47, wherein the processor installs an updated hardware-specific boot routine in the read-write memory device such that, during a boot process of executing a generic operating system, the updated hardware-specific boot routine is selected and executed to complete the boot process.

54. (new) The computer system of claim 53, further comprises:

peripherals coupled to the processor;

wherein the updated hardware-specific boot routine is selected depending upon the processor and the peripherals in the boot process.